

60,130-1293
00MRA0037REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 and 19-22 stand rejected. Applicant has amended claim 1 and has added new claims 23-26. Consequently, claims 1-17 and 19-26 are pending upon entry of this Amendment. No new matter has been added.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,702,041 to Podolan ("Podolan"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action asserted that Podolan discloses a door panel that "is secured to the window regulator housing component (44, 52) by a deformed portion (46)" (p. 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Reference numeral 46 in Podolan refers to a spacer. This spacer 46 is not the same as the claimed "deformed portion of the window regulator housing" because, as shown in Figure 3, it is not deformed at all. Instead, the spacer 46 maintains the same shape both before and after installation into the door. Figure 3 clearly shows that the spacer 46 is not secured to any part of the door panel (20, 24, 32, 40). Moreover, the spacer 46 is a separate, independent component from the support plate 44 and the clutch housing 52 and cannot be considered a "portion" of the window regulator housing component" under any reasonable interpretation. Because the spacer 46 is neither deformed nor a portion of any housing component, it does not form the claimed subassembly where the deformed portion secures the door panel to the window regulator housing component.

Also, the spacer 46 in Podolan does not "releaseably secure" any components, much less secure a window regulator drive system component to the subassembly via a fourth component. Instead, the spacer 46 simply maintains a support plate 44 and an inner panel 32 in a spaced relationship with each other; the actual securing of the support plate 44 to the inner panel 32 is conducted by conventional means (col. 2, lines 38-41). The attachment between the support plate 44 and the inner panel 32, and not the spacer 46, holds a clutch housing 52 in place.

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Podolan therefore fails to show any portion of any housing that is deformed, much less disclose a window regulator housing component having a deformed portion that secures a door panel to the window regulator housing component to form a subassembly and that releaseably secures a window regulator drive system to the subassembly. Thus, Podolan fails to anticipate claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 19-22. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

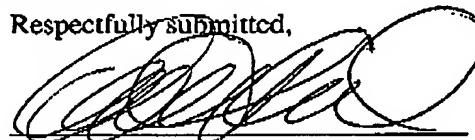
§ 103 rejection

Claims 8-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Podolan. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 8-11, 13 and 14 depend on patentable claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the reasons explained above. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant has added new claims 23-26 to recite a method for manufacturing an assembly having a window regulator drive system component attached to a subassembly via a fourth component using a deformed portion of a window regulator housing. New claims 23-26 recite the process described in the originally-filed specification and claims. Further, new claims 23-26 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons explained above. Entry and allowance of new claims 23-26 are therefore respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$54.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for 3 additional claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna M. Shih, Reg. No. 36,372
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: May 27, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306, on May 27, 2004.

Beth A. Beard

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